

DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 477 600

SO 034 816

AUTHOR Alibrandi, Marsha
TITLE GIS in the Classroom: Using Geographic Information Systems in Social Studies and Environmental Science. [with CD-ROM].
ISBN ISBN-0-325-00479-X
PUB DATE 2003-00-00
NOTE 192p.; Foreword by Charlie Fitzpatrick.
AVAILABLE FROM Heinemann, 361 Hanover Street, Portsmouth, NH 03801-3912 (\$18). Tel: 800-225-5800 (Toll Free); Fax: 603-431-2214; e-mail: custserv@heinemann.com; Web site: <http://www.heinemann.com/>.
PUB TYPE Guides - Classroom - Teacher (052) -- Non-Print Media (100)
EDRS PRICE Document Not Available From EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS *Classroom Techniques; *Computer Assisted Instruction; Elementary Secondary Education; Environmental Education; Foreign Countries; *Geography; *Geography Instruction; *Social Studies; Student Projects
IDENTIFIERS Canada; *Geographic Information Systems; Vignettes

ABSTRACT

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) is a computer application for urban planning, weather reporting, and geological and demographic studies. This book takes teachers and students to the cutting edge of teaching social studies and environmental education using GIS. Students can use GIS as a tool to explore, question, integrate, analyze, interpret, evaluate, and act on information. The book offers stories of teachers and students from the U.S. and Canada who have harnessed the power of GIS to conduct water quality testing where pollution and reduced flow had impacted local shellfish beds; develop a profile of their city during the pre- and post-U.S. civil rights era by interviewing African American adults who had attended their school; and address community needs. A CD-ROM is also available to provide GIS software, plus sample projects and activities for GIS integration that are closely tied to the text. Following the "Introduction", there are 10 chapters: (1) "What's GIS Done for Me Lately?"; (2) "Is There Any Spatially Intelligent Life on This Planet?"; (3) "Where Is GIS in Schools and Social Studies?"; (4) "The People Must Prove That There Is Water: An Environmental Community Service Project"; (5) "Oral History, GIS, and the Web: Putting African American History on the Map"; (6) "Building Community and Movin' On Up in Motor City: Farr Tech"; (7) "Interlude for a Critical Perspective: Are We Bridging the Digital Divide"; (8) "Getting behind the Map: Critical Thinking and Community Service Learning in the Capital Area"; (9) "Problem Solving in Canada"; and (10) "Conclusions and Implications." (Contains 58 references.) (BT)

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